

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 are currently active in this case. Claim 12 has been amended by the current amendment.

In the outstanding office action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,255,149 to Matsuo; and claims 3, 6-8, 11, 14, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuo in view of U.S. patent No. 4,799,176 to Cacciatore.

Claim 1 is directed to an integrated circuit (IC) *including* a fail safe sensor and halt logic configured to halt operation of the IC in response to the fail safe sensor indicating that a threshold temperature has been exceeded. As a consequence of this configuration, operation of the IC is halted based upon the sensed temperature of the IC and not the temperature of an adjacent heat source. Likewise, claim 12 is directed to a method including sensing a temperature of an IC using a sensor provided on the IC and halting operation of the IC in response to a threshold temperature being exceeded.

In contrast thereto, Matsuo discloses temperature sensors 4-1 and 4-2 arranged at appropriate positions of a heat generating element 3 wherein the heat generating element 3 is “obtained by assembling integrated circuits or the like ... mounted on [an] electronic apparatus 1.” That is, Matsuo teaches providing temperature sensors among a collection of ICs wherein the collection of ICs constitute the heat generating element. Consequently, if the sensed temperature exceeds a predetermined temperature, then all of the assembled ICs are shut down even if the primary source of heat is a single IC.

Cacciatore does not address the deficiencies of Matsuo. As discussed in the September 14, 2004 Request for Reconsideration, Cacciatore discloses a thermostat including a user key pad 26, a microprocessor 22 and an LCD display 24. The purpose of the

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thermostat is to control the temperature of a room/area by heating and/or cooling based on a measured temperature. Nowhere does Cacciatore disclose or suggest an IC including a fail safe sensor or halt logic as defined by claim 1 or a method including sensing a temperature of an IC using a sensor provided on the IC as defined by claim 12.

For the foregoing reasons, Matsuo is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claims 1 or 12 when considered alone or in combination with Cacciatore. Dependent claims 2-11 and 13-19 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reason that claims 1 and 12 are believed to be allowable.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Charles L. Gholz
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 26,395

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

W. Todd Baker
Registration No. 45,265

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